MARVEL LEGACY

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

10

ROYALS

EWING
RODRÍGUEZ
LÓPEZ
BELLAIRE

EXPERIMENTED UPON LONG AGO BY ALIENS KNOWN AS THE KREE, *THE INHUMANS* ARE A RACE OF SUPER-BEINGS WHO CAN UNLOCK AMAZING ABILITIES VIA THE MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT *TERRIGEN*.

BUT AFTER LEARNING THAT TERRIGEN WAS POISONING EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION, THE QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS, *MEDUSA*, DESTROYED ALL TRACES OF IT, MEANING THERE WILL BE NO MORE NEW INHUMANS. HEAVY WITH GUILT, MEDUSA ABDICATED THE THRONE—LEAVING THE INHUMANS WITHOUT THEIR ROYAL FAMILY.

BUT IF THE ROYALS CAN NO LONGER RULE INHUMANITY...THEY CAN STILL SAVE IT.

ROYALS

MEDUSA

MAXIMUS

CRYSTAL

GORGON

SWAIN

MARVEL BOY

FLINT

HEADSHOT ART BY JUAN DOE

MARVEL BOY RECRUITED THE ROYAL FAMILY AND A COUPLE NEW INHUMANS TO FIND A WAY TO RESTORE THE INHUMAN RACE. THEY BEGAN ON HALA, THE KREE HOMEWORLD, WHERE THEY LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF PRIMAGEN, THE TERRIGEN-LIKE CATALYST THAT MADE THE KREE. TO FIND IT AND ITS PROGENITORS, THEY INVESTIGATED THE SKYSPEARS AND LEARNED THAT THE DEADLY OBELISKS ARE IN FACT ADVANCED COMPUTERS DESIGNED TO AFFECT INHUMANS AND RELATED RACES. WHEN FLINT TOUCHED A SPEAR, IT DRAMATICALLY BOOSTED HIS POWERS, BUT NOW HIS BODY IS CHANGING—CRYSTALIZING.

SOMETHING IS CALLING HIM HOME. THE ROYALS BEGAN TRACKING THE SPEARS' DATA TRANSMISSIONS BACK TO THEIR CREATORS, BUT AS THEY APPROACHED THEIR DESTINATION, A PROGENITOR NOTICED. IT PLUCKED THEIR SHIP OUT OF SPACE—AND DESTROYED IT.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE, THE PROGENITORS ARE RETURNING, AND ONLY THE LAST INHUMAN—A WORN MAXIMUS THE MAD—AND THE ACCUSER—AN OLDER NOH-VARR—STAND IN THEIR WAY.

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FIVE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW.
HUMANS CAN NO LONGER SURVIVE UNMODIFIED ON PLANET EARTH.
BUT STILL, THERE IS LIFE.
WE COULD STEAL TIME
AL EWING WRITER
JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ PENCILER
ÁLVARO LÓPEZ INKER
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLOR ARTIST
VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
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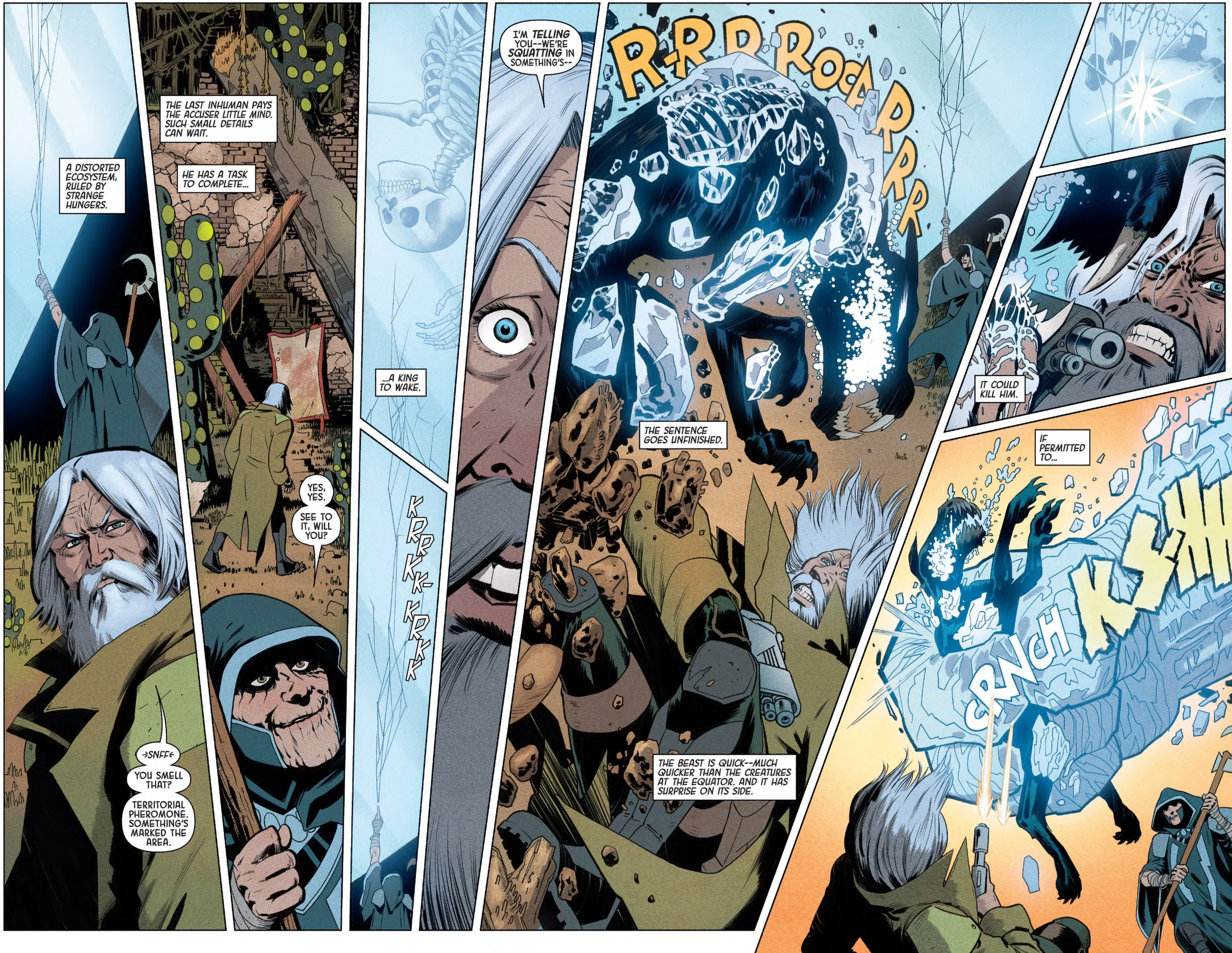
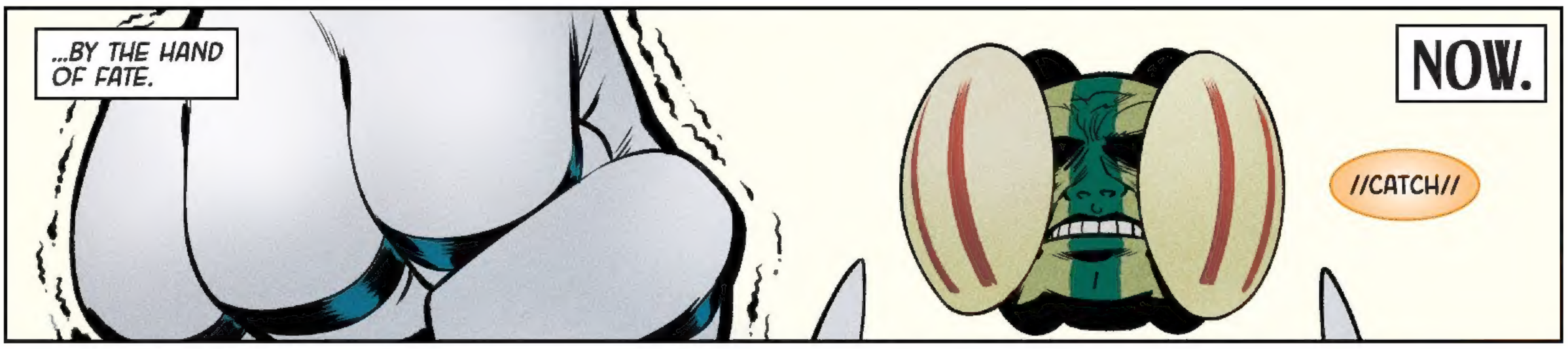
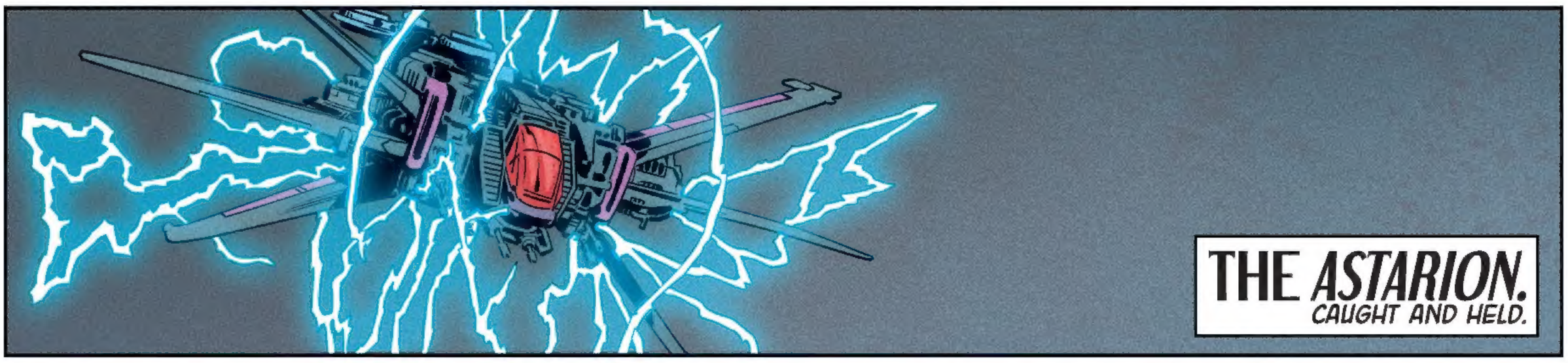
JOE QUESADA chief creative officer DAN BUCKLEY president ALAN FINE exec. producer INHUMANS created by STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY


A DISTORTED ECOSYSTEM, RULED BY STRANGE HUNGERS.
THE LAST INHUMAN PAYS THE ACCUSER LITTLE MIND. SUCH SMALL DETAILS CAN WAIT.
HE HAS A TASK TO COMPLETE...
YES, YES.
SEE TO IT, WILL YOU?
SNFF
YOU SMELL THAT?
TERRITORIAL PHEROMONE. SOMETHING'S MARKED THE AREA.
...A KING TO WAKE.
KRRKK-KRKK
I'M TELLING YOU--WE'RE SQUATTING IN SOMETHING'S--
R-R R ROARRR
THE SENTENCE GOES UNFINISHED.
THE BEAST IS QUICK--MUCH QUICKER THAN THE CREATURES AT THE EQUATOR. AND IT HAS SURPRISE ON ITS SIDE.
IT COULD KILL HIM.
IF PERMITTED TO...
CRNCH
KSHH





THIS IS *INSANE*-- THE CONTROLS ARE *RESPONDING*, BUT NOTHING'S *HAPPENING*--

BECAUSE THIS ISN'T A MECHANICAL FAILURE.

SOMEONE'S *DOING* THIS TO US.

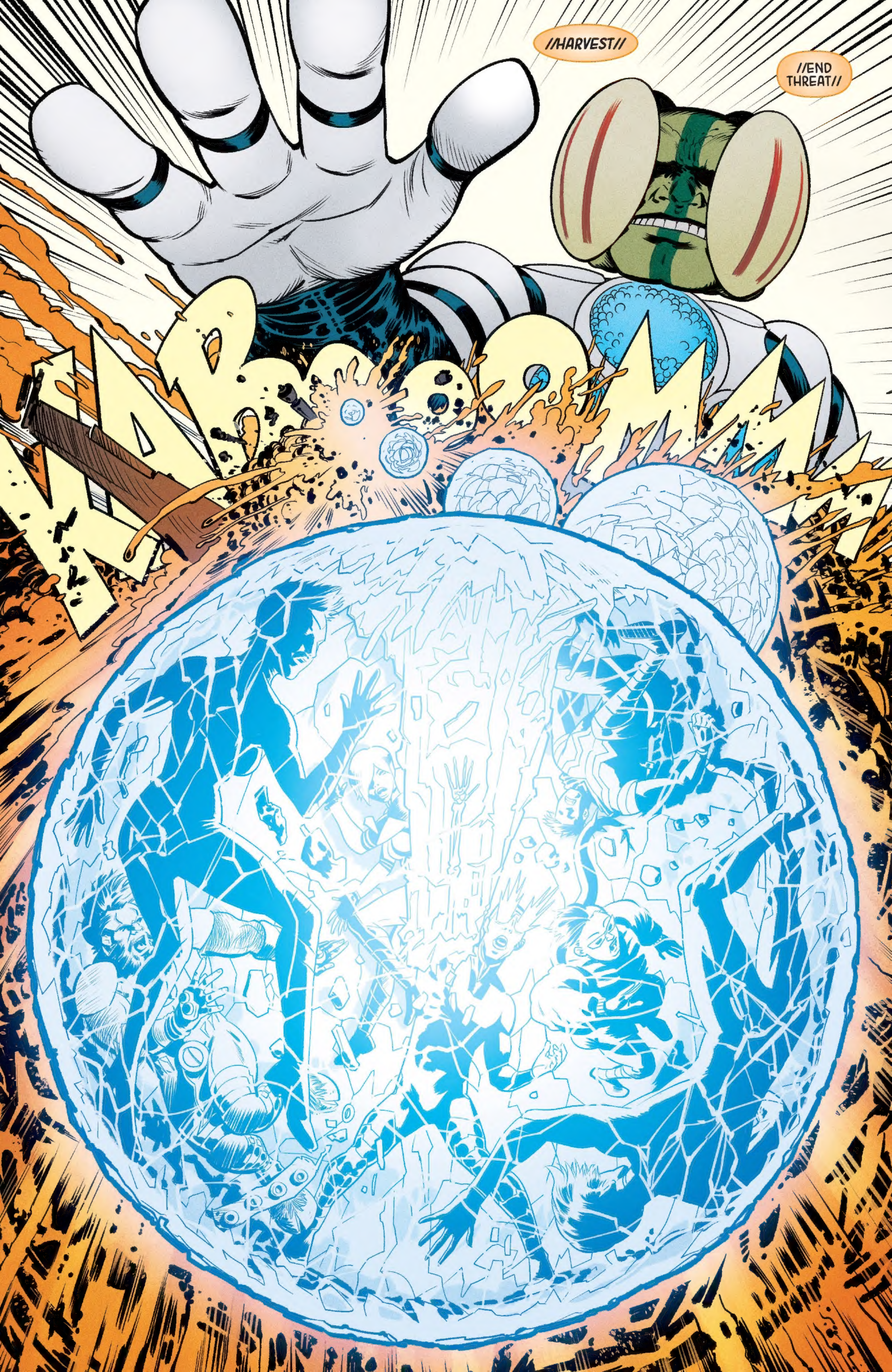
SOMEONE STOPPED A *SPACESHIP* IN *MID-FLIGHT?*

WHO?

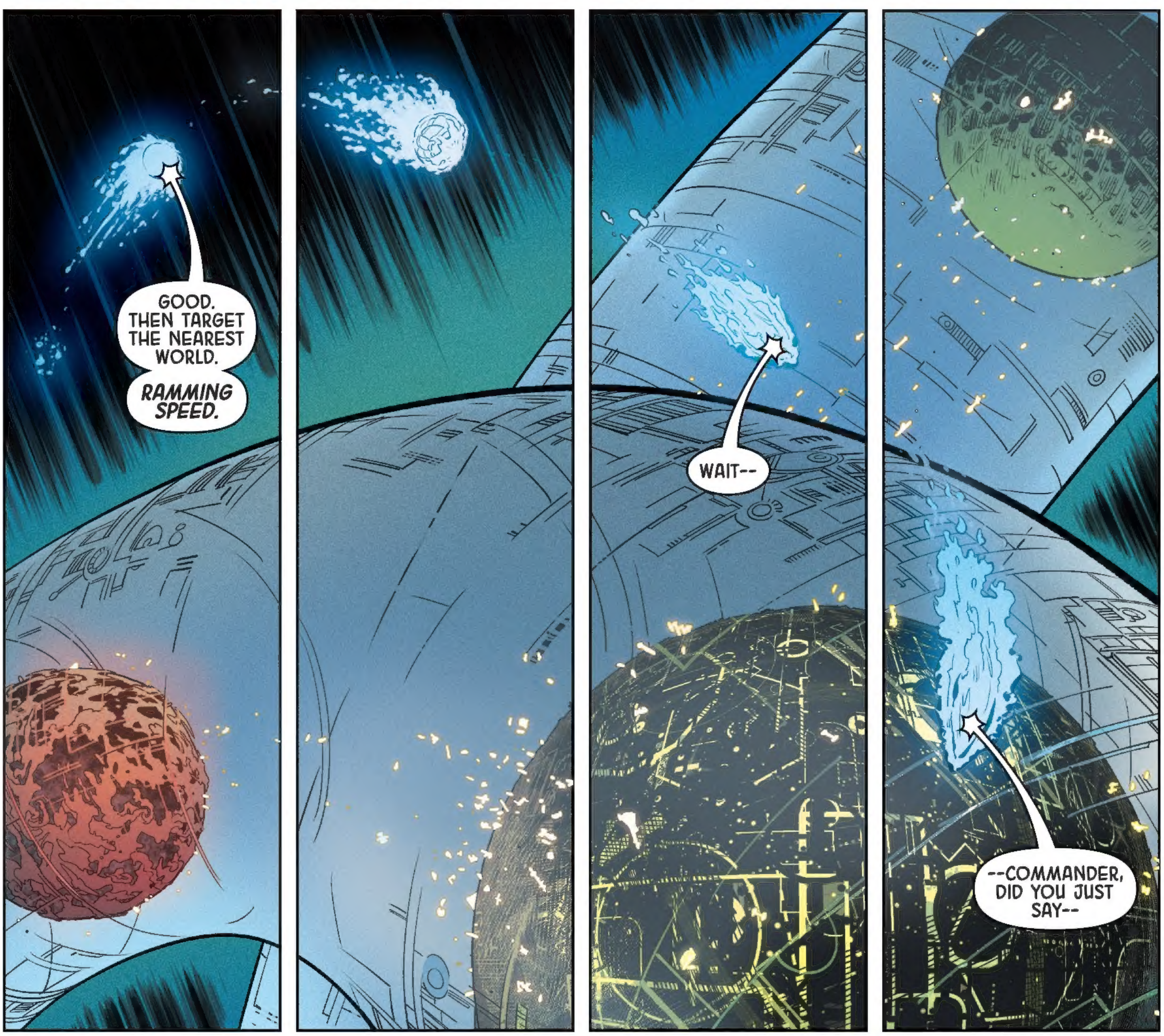
EXCELLENT QUESTION.
MEDUSA?
FLINT!
MAYBE IT'S THE BRAND-NEW CRYSTAL HAND, BUT I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH THIS.
THROWING PLUTO AROUND WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU?
IT'S NOT ME, COMMANDER.
BUT I CAN FEEL... A PRESENCE... SOMETHING EXAMINING US...
NO.

SURPRISE
RANDAC!
FLINT-- WHAT ARE YOU--
NO TIME!
I'M CONNECTED-- I CAN SEE ITS MIND--

PART OF A VAST NETWORK-- IT IS WHAT IT DOES-- IT GROWS AND HARVESTS--
--AND IT THINKS WE'RE A POTENTIAL DISRUPTION TO THE WORK CYCLE! A THREAT TO THE CROP!
IT THINKS WE'RE A THREAT!

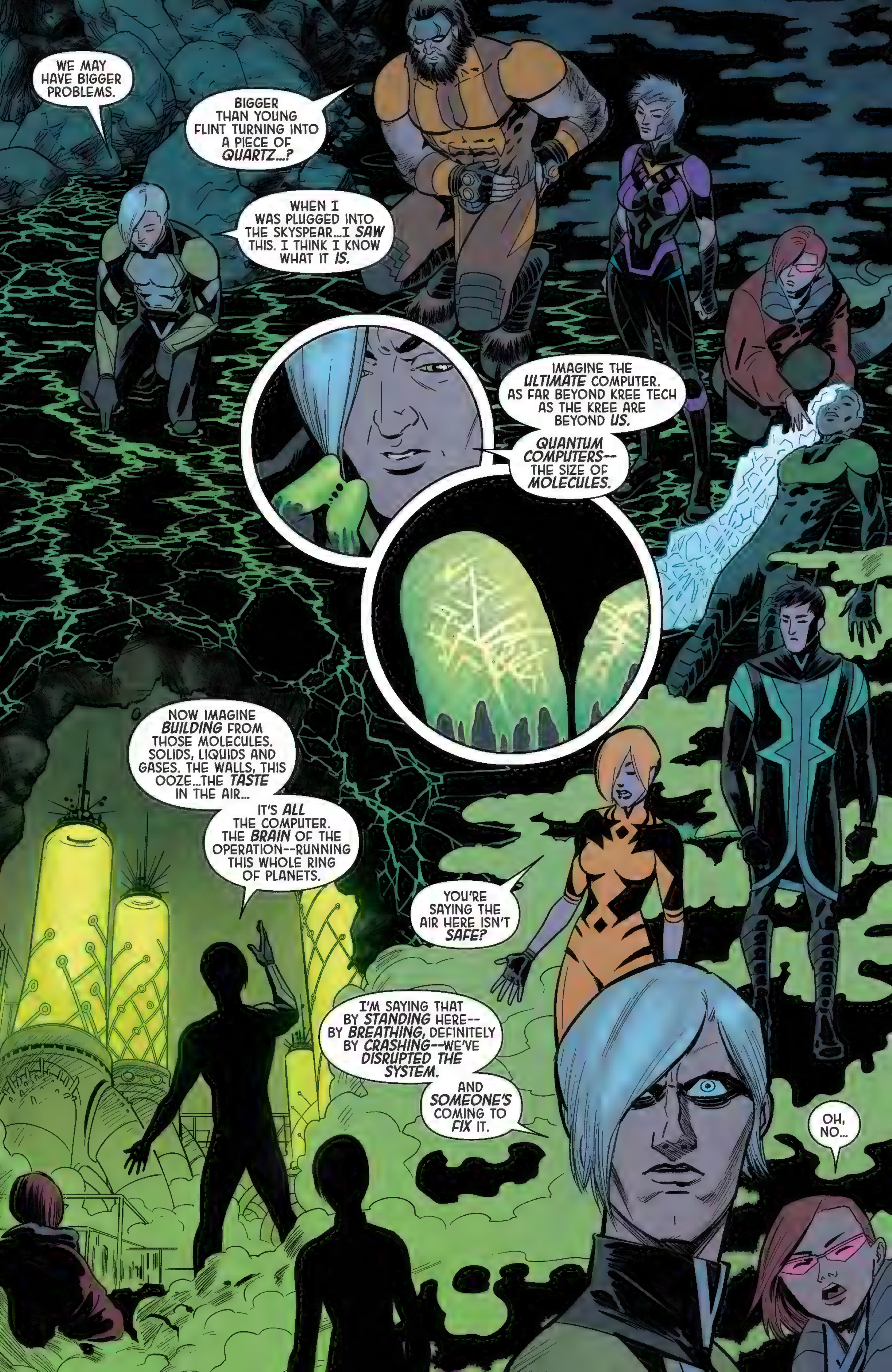

//HARVEST//
//END THREAT//

MY SHIP...
EVERYONE STAY CALM. I CAN CLEAN THE *AIR* IN HERE--KEEP US IN *OXYGEN*--
"STAY CALM"? *IT BLEW UP THE SHIP!*
AND IT THOUGHT *WE* WERE THE THREAT?
... IT WAS *RIGHT.*
FLINT--CAN YOU *DIRECT* THIS THING? WITH YOUR GIFT?
I MADE IT--I CAN MOVE IT--

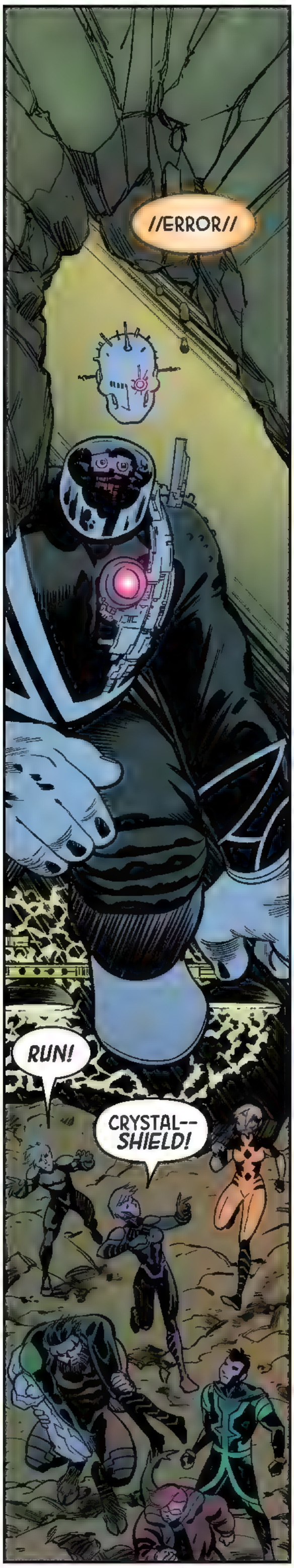

GOOD. THEN TARGET THE NEAREST WORLD.
RAMMING SPEED.
WAIT--
--COMMANDER, DID YOU JUST SAY--

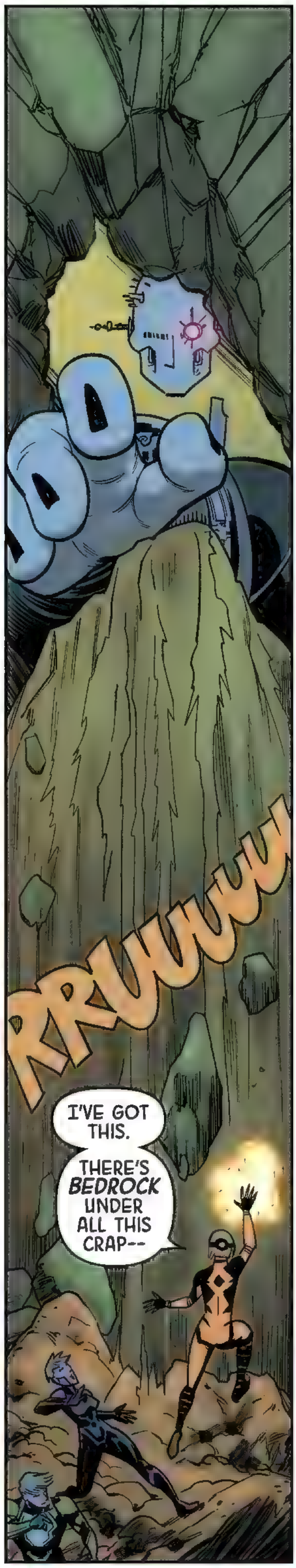
WE'RE THROUGH THE OUTER MEMBRANE--
WHOLE PLANETS TRAPPED IN TRANSPARENT TUBES! LIKE HAMSTERS IN HABITRAILS! AND WE'RE PICKING A FIGHT!
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO RAM-RAID THE GODS?
NOH-VARR-- CRASH PROTECTION!
POCKET BATTLEFIELD IS ONLINE, COMMANDER-- IF THE STRESS DOESN'T OVERLOAD IT...
IT CAN OVERLOAD?
EVERYONE BRACE--
--BRACE FOR--
CRASH!!

KRNKH
OWW!
EVERYONE-- CHECK FOR INJURIES.
CRYSTAL-- HOW'S THE AIR?
HUMID. LOTS OF MOISTURE, HIGH OXYGEN CONTENT... BUT BREATHABLE.
THERE'S AN ODD TASTE...
GORGON...
I'M FINE. THE PAIN WILL PASS.
I'LL DO MY DUTY.
COMMANDER!
FLINT'S PASSED OUT--
THE STRAIN OF GETTING US HERE, PROBABLY.
I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THAT CRYSTAL COATING ON HIS ARM...
...AND NOW HIS FACE...

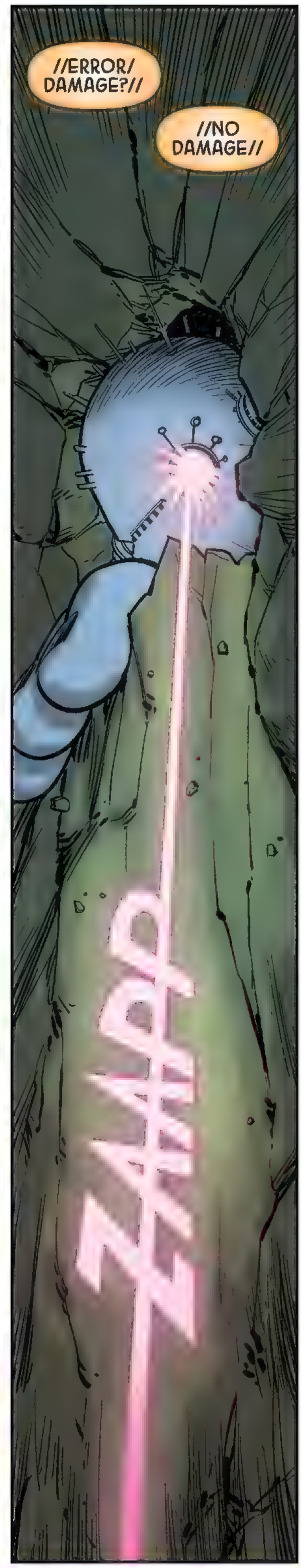

WE MAY HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS.
BIGGER THAN YOUNG FLINT TURNING INTO A PIECE OF *QUARTZ...?*
WHEN I WAS PLUGGED INTO THE SKYSPEAR...I *SAW* THIS. I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT *IS.*
IMAGINE THE *ULTIMATE* COMPUTER. AS FAR BEYOND KREE TECH AS THE KREE ARE BEYOND *US.*
QUANTUM COMPUTERS--THE SIZE OF *MOLECULES.*
NOW IMAGINE *BUILDING* FROM THOSE MOLECULES. SOLIDS, LIQUIDS AND GASES. THE WALLS, THIS OOZE...THE *TASTE* IN THE AIR...
IT'S *ALL* THE COMPUTER. THE *BRAIN* OF THE OPERATION--RUNNING THIS WHOLE RING OF PLANETS.
YOU'RE SAYING THE AIR HERE ISN'T *SAFE?*
I'M SAYING THAT BY *STANDING* HERE--BY *BREATHING,* DEFINITELY BY *CRASHING*--WE'VE *DISRUPTED THE SYSTEM.*
AND *SOMEONE'S* COMING TO *FIX* IT.
OH, NO...

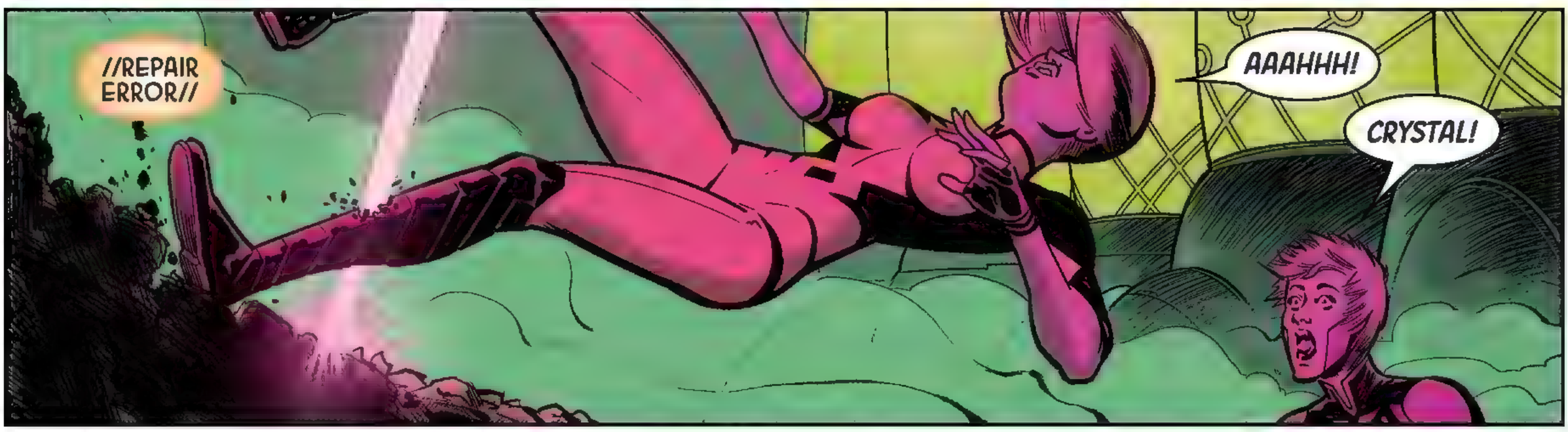
PROGENITOR.
ORDINATOR-CLASS.
//ERROR?//
RANDAC.
IT...IT'S...
IT'S GOD'S I.T. DEPARTMENT.
RUN.

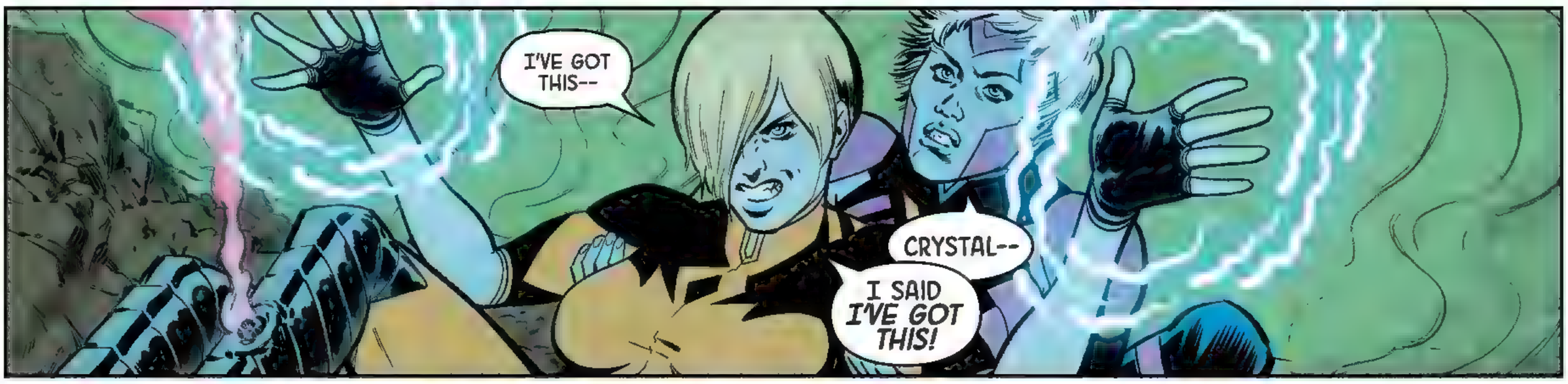

//ERROR//
RUN!
CRYSTAL--
SHIELD!


KRUUUU
I'VE GOT THIS.
THERE'S BEDROCK UNDER ALL THIS CRAP--

MMBLEEE!!!
--AND FLINT'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN USE IT!


//ERROR/ DAMAGE?//
//NO DAMAGE//
ZAPPZ


//REPAIR ERROR//
AAAHHH!
CRYSTAL!



//ERROR?//

ZZZAP

WHAT...?

MOISTURE IN THE AIR. I CAN... CAN *CONTROL* IT. THE WATER.

USING IT TO BREAK UP THE LASER.

CAN'T KEEP IT UP FOREVER. WE'LL ALL *DEHYDRATE.*

ALSO, I THINK I'M GOING INTO SHOCK.

NOH-VARR!

I NEED A WAY TO BEAT THIS THING. I NEED WEAKNESSES.
YOU'RE THE EXPERT--
HOW? YOU THREW ME INTO A SKYSPEAR! I HAD A MASSIVE HALLUCINATION, NOT A COLLEGE COURSE!
I--I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE ANY WEAKNESSES--
OF COURSE THEY DO! THINK, MARVEL BOY!
MUST I ALWAYS BE THE GENIUS IN THIS FAMILY? YOU SAID IT YOURSELF!
WE'RE IN THE BRAIN!
AND THE BRAIN IS MY TERRITORY!
YOU WANT TO USE YOUR POWER ON--ON ALL THIS?
IT'S A COMPUTER, MAXIMUS--YOUR GIFT CAN'T AFFECT IT--
OH? LIKE FLINT COULDN'T AFFECT PLUTO?
WE'RE CREATURES OF TERRIGEN. AND TERRIGEN IS POETRY, RUNNING IN OUR VEINS.
CAN'T YOU SEE THE POETRY IN THIS?

I SAY-- IF I'M STANDING ON A WORLD BUILT BY OUR GODS, TASTING AN ENDLESS MIND ON MY TONGUE--
--LET'S RUN WITH IT.
NICE SPEECH.
BUT OUR GIFTS CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT, REMEMBER?
BECAUSE I WANT TO HAVE FUN AND YOU GENERALLY DON'T. SO WE PUSH AGAINST EACH OTHER.
BUT...WE AFFECT DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE BRAIN, SWAIN. CONSCIOUS AND SUBCONSCIOUS. EGO AND ID.
HUH.
SO...WHAT IF WE PUT THAT TOGETHER?
WHAT IF WE PUSHED IN THE SAME DIRECTION?
NNNHH--
WHATEVER HAPPENS--IT'S ALL WE'VE GOT!
SO PUSH!
OKAY.
HOW DO WE WORK THIS?
FEEL. LET YOUR MIND OUT.
LIKE SEEING A FOREST, INSTEAD OF TREES. LIKE A MAGIC EYE DRAWING.

I...I CAN FEEL IT. ALL AROUND US...A MIND THE SIZE OF A CITY...
AN ALIEN MIND. CRISS-CROSSING SYNAPSES. NEURAL PATHWAYS MADE OF STREETS AND ALLEYS.
TOWERS OF THOUGHT...

//ERROR?//
NOW-- FOLLOW MY LEAD.
GRAB A BIG, BIG FISTFUL OF THAT LOVELY MIND IN OUR HANDS...

//E?RO?//
//SYST?M D?SRUPTI?N//
//CRIT?C?L ???OR//
AND... SQUEEZE...
WHOOMP

...UNTIL THE JUICE RUNS THROUGH OUR FINGERS.
DELICIOUS.

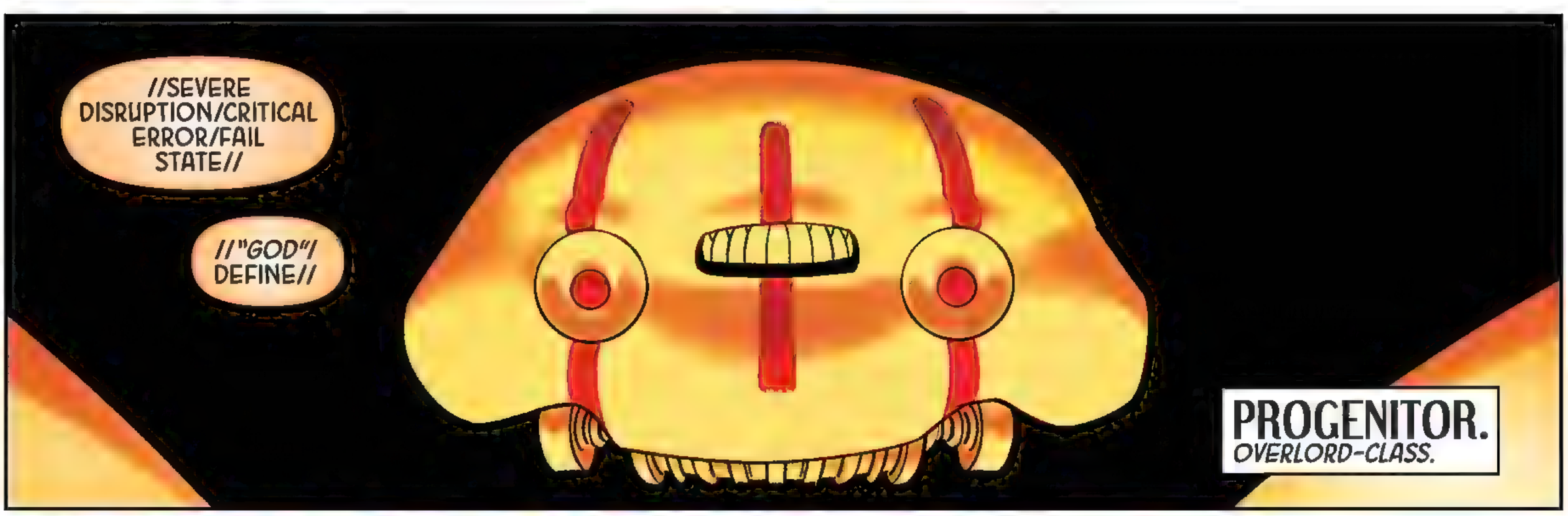
GOD IS DEAD, FELLOW INHUMANS! GOD REMAINS DEAD!

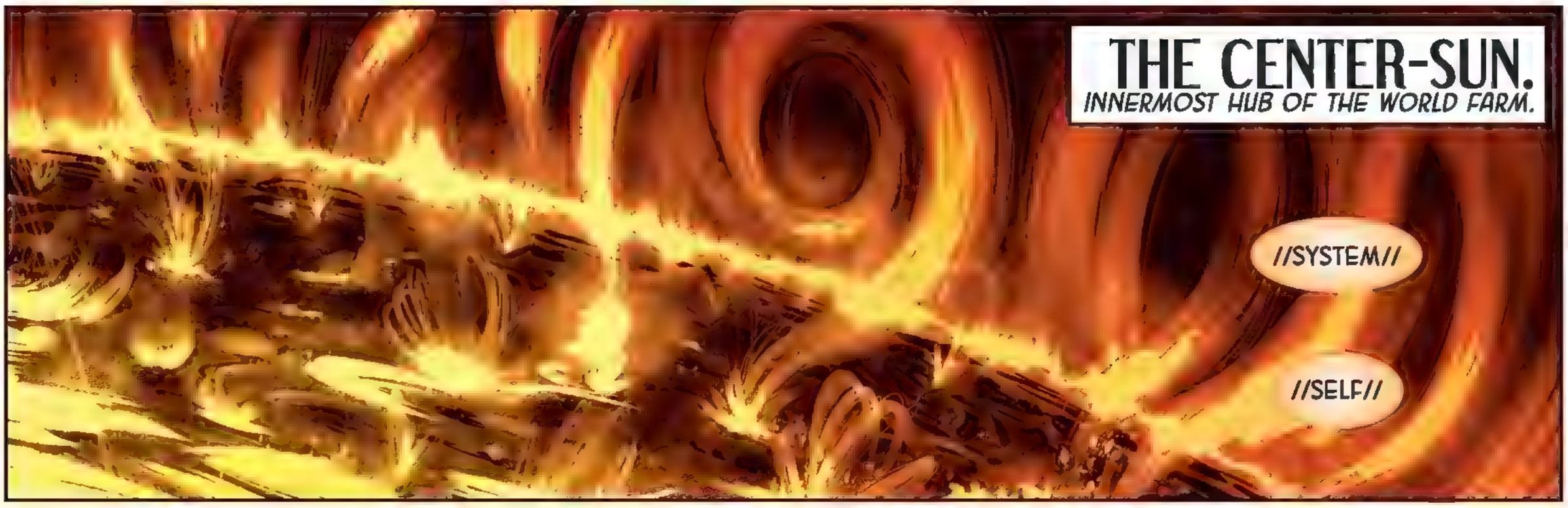
AND WE HAVE KILLED HIM!

IS NOT THE GREATNESS OF THIS DEED TOO GREAT EVEN FOR US?

MAXIMUS...

YES! YOU'RE RIGHT! WHY STOP NOW?





//"GOD IS DEAD"/ DEFINE//
//THREAT/ DISRUPTION/ INTENTION//
//INSULT//
//CRITICAL ERROR//
//REPAIR ERROR//
//MAINTAIN SYSTEM//
//END DISRUPTION//

//END THREAT//
PROGENITOR.
DESTROYER-CLASS.
PROGENITOR.
EXTERMINATOR-CLASS.
//END THREAT//
TO BE CONTINUED...

HOLDING COURT

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT."

Greetings, Inhum-fans! Al Ewing here, just back from New York Comic Con with a screwed-up body clock and some kind of terrifying "con crud" breeding in the depths of my throat. What does this mean for the latest edition of HOLDING COURT? Let's find out together! If you'd like to see your letter in ROYALS, send it to mheroes@marvel.com, mark it "OKAY TO PRINT" and we'll print the best! Let's dive straight in…

Hey Al,

Since you're diving in to the Progenitors, I wanted to know if the Kree or a group that represents the Kree, like the Accuser Corps that were sent to exterminate the Universal Inhumans, will be featured?

BB whispered Maximus' hands away in Soule's INHUMAN--is that thread still alive in your run, or did you wave it away?

Thanks,
Ibrahim

Hi, Ibrahim! To answer your questions in order: Noh-Varr is the main Kree featured--both as Marvel Boy and in his future self's role as the Accuser of 5,000 years from now--although we did spend some time on destroyed Hala back in #4 and #5. As for Maximus' hands--they've not really been mentioned much, admittedly, but there is a moment in a coming issue where he puts them to use.

As a noob Inhuman fan, I wanted to know more about their origins and how Black Bolt and Medusa rose to power, and I got what I was asking for--plus, you give great insight into Attilan politics.

Mr. Hightower

Glad you're enjoying the secrets of the Inhumans' origins we're revealing, Mr. H.! But for another glimpse of the early days of Black Bolt, Medusa and the rest of the Royals, I hope you're checking out INHUMANS: ONCE & FUTURE KINGS, by the dream team of Christopher Priest and Phil Noto--I know I am!

This book has been a nice surprise. Very enjoyable. I love everything Kree. I have a theory about the Kree: These are godless beings who live through might and the military complex. Who created them? How are they so technically advanced? I see the Grandmaster, the ultimate chess man, creating the ultimate army… Plus when Kree die, they just cease. The Supreme Intelligence has the code to re-create any Kree. This Plex could use DNA code to bring the Empire back. That's why they do not evolve! They are basically clones of past creations. Rehashed. Renewed.

Donald

It's a good guess, Donald, but as we've seen, the Progenitors had more of a hand in creating the Kree than the Grandmaster. In terms of why they did it--we're certainly going to get some hints in the future…

I got into comics in 2015, and UNCANNY INHUMANS #0 was one of the first issues I bought. Since then I've been buying Inhuman titles on the regular. Charles Soule's Inhuman stories are some of my favorite stories I have read, so I was worried when Soule left, but reading ROYALS these past few months has allayed my fears. You've tapped into the characters in a different but still great way, and I can't wait to see where you take Commander Medusa and the crew. Keep up the good work, Mr. Ewing!

Sincerely,
Caleb Johnson

Glad we were able to keep you reading, Caleb! I mean that sincerely, despite the Stan Lee-style patter I reserve for these letter columns--I was a huge fan of Charles Soule's work on the book as well (not to mention James Asmus!) and to hear I've managed to keep one of his fans happy is very gratifying. Thank you!

Just finished ROYALS #8...WOW! What a comic! I'm a long-time Inhumans reader, and I would like to personally thank you for giving Gorgon the character development he deserves! Having him back on the battlefield is an absolute delight. Breaking those chains? Powerful! And that kiss he shared with Medusa?? Passionate! I wonder how jealous Black Bolt is going to get! I'm very anxious to see where the story goes from here.

Anyways, thanks for giving the big bearded dude the spotlight for an issue. He's the coolest "muscle" of any team. (Yes, even you, Colossus!) Us other big bearded dudes really appreciate the representation. Keep up the good work, and I hope to see more of Gorgon stomping across the galaxy with his fellow Inhumans! Nothing but praise for ROYALS!

Logan "Petragon"

Thanks, Logan! Speaking of Black Bolt--one of the reasons I went to NYCC was to meet creators I hadn't met in person before, and I took the opportunity to have a coffee with Saladin Ahmed, writer of the amazing BLACK BOLT comic, and thrash out our plans for the future…a future that will hopefully make fans of Gorgon, fans of Medusa AND fans of Black Bolt very happy. We think you'll enjoy INHUMANS: JUDGMENT DAY, a one-shot coming this January.

And that's it! I've got to eat breakfast…or is it lunch? My body can't tell…but I'll see you next month for more ROYALS action! Until then--be good to each other, Inhum-fans!

ROYALS

NEXT: ROYALS #11

AND FOR MORE INHUMANS, CHECK OUT:

ZONE